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TITLES, AUTHORS' NAMES, &c. of the Publications reviewed in this Volume.

N. B. For REMARKABLE PASSAGES, in the *Criticiſms* and *Extracts*, ſee the INDEX, at the End of the Volume.

☞ For the Names, alſo, of thoſe learned Foreigners who are the Authors of new Diſſertations, or other curious Papers, publiſhed in the MEMOIRS and TRANSACTIONS of the Royal and other Scientific ACADEMIES on the Continent, and alſo for the Titles of thoſe Diſſertations, &c. of which Accounts are given in the Review,—ſee our *Index*, printed at the End of this Volume.

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TO THE

LITERARY WORLD.

PRIUS AUDITE PAUCIS. TERENT.

NEARLY half a century has elapſed, ſince THE MONTHLY REVIEW was firſt offered to the Public. The work, in its infancy, experienced a favourable reception; and that favour, it is gratefully acknowleged, has been conſtantly increaſing.

In the courſe of this period, vaſt and aſtoniſhing alterations have taken place in the *literary*, as well as in *the other* great concerns and intereſts of mankind.

Amid the fluctuations of empires and of ſtates, it was not to be expected, that the ſciences and the arts ſhould ſtop at any given ſtage of improvement: nor has this been the caſe. On the contrary, it is obvious that, in their wide and rapid progreſs, they have taken the lead in all thoſe grand events which have diſtinguiſhed the preſent century; and that the diffuſion of knowlege, and the progreſs of mental improvement, are always the certain fore-runners of great and happy revolutions, in the civil as well as in the moral world.

Of the praiſe due to the promoters of ſcience, THE AUTHORS OF LITERARY JOURNALS may be allowed to claim no inconſiderable portion. Criticiſm is, indeed, an office of high importance to the cauſe of literature; and when THE MONTHLY REVIEWERS aſſert, that their exertions, during FORTY YEARS, to diſcharge an arduous taſk, with utility to the Public, and with credit to themſelves, have been unremitted, it is humbly hoped that THEIR labours are entitled to ſome degree of applauſe.

At

At the commencement of their literary inveſtigations, in the year 1749, the inſtitutors of the Review imagined that a moderate pamphlet, conſiſting of *five ſheets*, would be ſufficient for a monthly account of publications; and even allow an occaſional *glance* at the ſtate of learning on the Continent. But it was ſoon perceived, that the productions of the preſs, in this country alone, began to overflow the narrow limits of the plan. The difficulty, however, ſeemed inſuperable; and the inconvenience of becoming continual debtors to the Public, was ſuſtained, as an evil of leſs magnitude than that of enlarging the aſſigned boundary; with the unavoidable conſequence of proportionally increaſing the price of the work. This inevitable reſult was *oppoſed*, and then admitted, as an argument ſuperior to all others.

Thus, like the progreſſive accumulation of the great national debt, hath been this more inſignificant debt of THE MONTHLY REVIEW, which has uſually amounted to between two and three hundred publications, of various rank and importance. The bulky folio, and the diminutive ſixpenny pamphlet, have been equally compelled to wait for that notice to which, by the profeſſed plan of this work, they were juſtly entitled.

To what conſequences has this deficiency tended? Debtors, who are unable to pay at the regular time, find the demands of creditors importunate and grievous. The impatience of authors, who thought their works were ſlighted, and the eagerneſs of readers, whoſe curioſity accorded not with delay, produced a clamour againſt THE MONTHLY REVIEWERS, which has often provoked notice; but which now abſolutely demands more ſerious attention. What could be done, however, in order to ſtem the tide of complaint, has been done; and to leſſen, in *ſome* meaſure, the weight of this literary national debt, *an half ſheet extraordinary* was occaſionally *given:* but as this effort proved unproductive of conſiderable dimi-

diminution, A WHOLE ADDITIONAL SHEET has, *ſilently*, and without oſtentation, been preſented to their readers, for a very conſiderable length of time, and at an heavy increaſe of expence.

Still, however, it is found, that the productions of the Engliſh, excluſive of the Foreign, preſſes, are ſo aſtoniſhingly multiplied, that no exertions of THE MONTHLY REVIEWERS have enabled them to ſatisfy the demands of public curioſity.

Being thus convinced that an extenſion of their limits was expedient and neceſſary, they have, at length, liſtened to the repeated advice of MANY liberal friends, who have urged A YET FARTHER ENLARGEMENT: by which they may be enabled, in a due courſe of time, to reduce their arrears, and give many articles of conſequence an earlier inſertion.

As this object, however, conſiderably increaſing labours that are very extenſive, and highly augmenting expences which are already great, cannot poſſibly be accompliſhed without the aſſiſtance of the Public, it is hoped, and it now is not doubted, that they will be "nothing loth" in contributing to this loudly demanded alteration. They are therefore requeſted to obſerve, that, henceforward,

THE MONTHLY REVIEW,

ENLARGED, AND, IN VARIOUS RESPECTS, IMPROVED,

will be publiſhed at the price of

ONE SHILLING AND SIXPENCE.

To conclude. It is hoped that a meaſure calculated for the greater advantage, and deſigned to increaſe the entertainment, of every reader, will meet with the ſame candor and approbation which this work has ſo long expe-

experienced,—to a degree, perhaps, unparalleled in the annals of literature. For their own part, THE MONTHLY REVIEWERS will, with the utmoſt pleaſure, continue to employ their beſt abilities in the faithful diſcharge of their duty. Taſtes will differ; judgment may err; but they truſt that, in no inſtance, ſhall they ever be found deficient in aſſiduity, ſtrenuous exertion, and honeſty of intention.

*** As the great ſcarcity of the early Numbers of this Work, by rendering the completion of ſets nearly impoſſible, may have deterred many readers from becoming purchaſers of it, the Reviewers take the opportunity of this alteration of their plan, to commence a new ſeries of volumes: the Number for January 1790, conſtituting the Firſt of Vol. I. of THE MONTHLY REVIEW ENLARGED. From this period, therefore, the work, *in its improved ſtate*, may be regularly preſerved in complete ſets.